

# ODD FELLOWS PIONEER GROUP



**CORNERSTONE** — It was back in June, 1890, that members of the LaCamas Odd Fellows laid the cornerstone for the first I.O.O.F. hall but the present building was not constructed until about 1922. Old-timers may recognize in this picture the Ben Marthen house and barn which stood on the location of the present Commercial hotel.

## 72 Years Ago Odd Fellows Chartered Lodge in Camas

One of the older Camas organizations is Wide West Lodge No. 43, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which this spring celebrated its 72nd anniversary.

It was on March 25, 1886, that the lodge was chartered in Camas. Charter members were J. F. Roe, noble grand; Edwin Temple, vice grand; J. E. Young, secretary; A. J. Oakley, treasurer; A. E. MacMaster, James Vernon, R. Dedrick, James Tallman, Richard Bird, Ransom A. Bartlett, Frank J. Dubeck, Thomas Carlton, Charles A. Bates and Joseph Teeson.

The I.O.O.F. is a fraternal organization. Main objects to visit the sick, bury the dead and educate the orphan, to promote sociability and friendship; and to pay sickness and death benefits.

The F.L.T. in the three links stands for Friendship, Love and Truth.

Before the first I.O.O.F. temple was built sometime in the middle 90's the lodge met in a hall in the old MacMaster building which was located on what would now be Third and Division streets but is now occupied by the paper mill.

The old I.O.O.F. hall was torn down in June 1922 and the present building was occupied in November of that year. The group rents the upstairs of the building to other organizations and has rented the street floor to Wilmer Swank and his estate for the last 52 years.

The I.O.O.F. Home for Elderly Odd Fellows and Rebekahs is located in Walla Walla and has 71 residents.

Present officers: Clarence Shaw, noble grand; Theodore Duncan, vice grand; Harry Scarbrough, secretary; Harry

Clapp financial secretary; Harry Scarbrough, treasurer; Robert Klaas, warden; Howard Matteson, conductor; Norval Aslin, RSNG; Clifford Koplin, LSNG; Mike Brunner, RSVG; Stan Burgen, LSVG; Alfred Manor, inner guard; Lonnie Belz, outer guard; John Johnston, RSS; Elmer Wurman, LSS; George Anderson, chaplain; Norval Aslin, DDGM.

The organization meets every Tuesday except in July and August at 8 p.m. at the I.O.O.F. hall. The local group is a member of District 2 which has bought an iron lung and polio bed which are loaned to hospitals of the district.

The lodge takes part in and contributes to many community projects. The lodges of each district have sponsored a high school student to visit the United Nations Assembly with all expenses paid. On his return, the student gives talks to many organizations in the community.

Wide West Lodge No. 43 chartered the Columbia Babe Ruth baseball league and sponsors one team. Two members are league officers: Clarence Shaw, president, and Mike Brunner, treasurer.

Jack Harrington, first mayor of Camas, was an Odd Fellow.